

F.M.Bailey's taxonomy of A.Meston's collections from the Bellenden Ker Expedition of 1904

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Summary

Dowe, J.L. & Broughton, A.D. (2008). F.M.Bailey's taxonomy of A.Meston's collections from the Bellenden Ker Expedition of 1904. *Austrobaileya* 7(4): 677–679. The four new taxa described by F.M.Bailey for collections made by A.Meston during his 1904 ascent of Bellenden Ker Range, were first published in a Parliamentary Paper tabled 1st June 1904. This preceded his publication in the *Queensland Agricultural Journal*, on 1st July 1904. A note is also provided on place names associated with Bellenden Ker Range and their recommended spelling.

Key Words: F.M.Bailey, A.Meston, Bellenden Ker Range, Queensland botany

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Introduction

F.M.Bailey's contribution to the botany of Bellenden Ker Range is mostly contained in two reports, and based on collections made during expeditions in 1889 and 1904. Both expeditions were organized and led by Archibald Meston (Meston 1889, 1904). Bailey's only ascent of the range was during the 1889 expedition, during which some 600 specimens were collected. An account of the 1889 expedition itinerary and route, and a re-assessment of the taxonomic and nomenclatural results were provided by Dowe & Broughton (2007). The expedition of 1904

was conducted under the auspices of the Queensland Government Lands Department, and was not so much a scientific expedition but one which "confined itself almost entirely to the economic plants ... or promise to be of practical value to mankind" and to have "obtained as many specimens as possible for Mr Bailey's herbarium" (Meston 1904, p. 3 [p. 1009]; **Table 1**). In the introductory section of the report, Meston wrote short accounts on Timbers, Gums, Wood for Veneer, and on the Aborigines and their names for various plant species.

Table 1. Meston's itinerary for the 1904 ascent of Bellenden Ker Range

Activity	Date
Departed Brisbane for Cairns	12 January
Arrived Cairns	17 January
Departed Cairns for Bellenden Ker Range	19 January
Summit camp	24–29 January
Returned to Cairns	8 March
Departed Cairns for Brisbane	9 March
Arrived Brisbane	14 March

In the botanical section of the report, Bailey listed 200 taxa that were collected by Meston or his indigenous collectors (see figure in Clarke 2008: 145). The specimens were seen and examined by Bailey upon their arrival in Brisbane. A search of herbaria [BRI, BM, K, MEL, NSW] revealed 109 specimens are extant and otherwise attributed to Meston from the 1904 expedition. It must be assumed that some of Meston's collections may not have been conserved as herbarium specimens, or otherwise have not survived, hence the disparity between the number of species listed by Bailey in the report and the number of specimens that have been located.

F.M. Bailey's botanical report of the 1904 expedition

Four new species were described by Bailey from Meston's collections from the Bellenden

Ker Range expedition of 1904 (**Table 2**). Citations from the taxonomic literature give the place of publication of the new species as the *Queensland Agricultural Journal* of July 1904 (Bailey 1904b). However, there is a prior publication which should be cited as the place of valid publication of the four species, a Parliamentary Paper that was tabled 1 June 1904 (Bailey 1904a) (pers. comm., D. Embury, Queensland Parliamentary Service). Tabling of a Parliamentary Paper qualifies as 'effective and valid publication' under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (McNeill *et al.*, 2006). The protologues were identical apart from some very minor grammatical and punctuation changes in each publication, and each new taxon was appended as being a '*sp. nov.*' in both publications.

Table 2. New taxa described by F.M. Bailey from Meston's 1904 Bellenden Ker Range expedition collections

Taxon/Species	Bailey, 1904a	Bailey, 1904b	Type citation	Location of types
<i>Pentapanax bellendenkerensis</i> F.M. Bailey [= <i>Polyscias bellendenkerensis</i> (F.M. Bailey) Philipson] [Araliaceae]	p. 12	p. 491	Summit of Bellenden-Ker, Meston's expedition, 1904, A. Meston 68	holo: BRI
<i>Psychotria coelospermum</i> F.M. Bailey [Rubiaceae]	p. 13	p. 492	Barron R, 1877, Bailey; Meston's Expedition to Bellenden-Ker, 1904	Bailey syntype specimen at BRI; Meston syntype specimen not located*
<i>Lucuma obpyriformis</i> F.M. Bailey [= <i>Pouteria obpyriformis</i> (F.M. Bailey) Baehni = <i>Sersalisia sericea</i> (Aiton) R.Br.] [Sapotaceae]	p. 13	p. 493	Meston's Bellenden-Ker Expedition, 1904 [Mt Toressa, 1904, Meston 29]	holo: BRI
<i>Bulbophyllum lageniforme</i> F.M. Bailey [Orchidaceae]	p. 16	p. 494	Bellenden-Ker Expedition, 1904, A. Meston s.n.	**lecto: BRI; isolecto: K

*P.I. Forster, pers. comm. April 2008.

**selected by Clements (1989).

Places names associated with Bellenden Ker Range

According to the Queensland Place Names Gazetteer, the official spelling of the name Bellenden Ker does not use a hyphen. In Dowe & Broughton (2007) we followed Meston's (1889) account of his report to Parliament, 'Report by A. Meston on the Government Scientific Expedition to the Bellenden-Ker Range (Wooroonooran) North Queensland' where he used the hyphenated spelling and continued to use this form in all his subsequent publications. The use of a hyphen appears to have ceased in the 1920s, and it has more or less been consistently unhyphenated since then, although Clarke (2008) has recently maintained the older usage.

The highest peak on the northern section of the Bellenden Ker Range is listed in the Gazetteer as 'Centre Peak', rather than 'Mt Bellenden Ker' or 'Mt Bellenden Ker Centre Peak' (*cf.* Dowe & Broughton 2007).

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Directors of BRI, MEL and NSW for supplying information about their collections; Jenny Tonkin for information about Meston's collections in K and BM; and David Embury, Queensland Parliamentary Service, for answering queries concerning the date of tabling of Bailey's Report.

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